



IOM's Rapid Response Teams continue to carry out health education, basic health consultations and provision of essential medicines to more than 70 underserved communities in provinces of high return. ©Angela Wells/IOM, February 2021.

2021 Highlights

163,219 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

159,861 total returns from Iran in 2021

1,764 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **29,886** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **4%** of returnees from Iran (**1,341** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **342** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **94%** of returnees from Pakistan (**323** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **111,080** patients have been served by IOM's Migration Health Unit in Nimroz, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces with basic health care- outpatient consultations, maternal, child and neo-natal health care, reproductive health, family planning and COVID-19 response. Programming is supported by the UK's FCDO, DG ECHO, CERF, and the United States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

During the past week a total of **10,153** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,743** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **10,153** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **830** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **10,290** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **368** presumptive TB cases were identified and **3** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 582 undocumented returnee households comprising at least one person with specific needs (PSN) in 2021 through provision of timely information, facilitating safe and dignified access to services, and provision of assistance including cash to mitigate identified protection risks and avoid resorting to negative coping mechanisms when referral pathways are exhausted. With screening staff at the Herat and Nimroz border points as well as case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team case-load this week included case management assessments for 36 new PSN households in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghor, Herat, Takhar, and Faryab. These cases included 6 children at risk, 2 women at risk, and 1 older person at risk. Across all provinces, 2,422 cases are ongoing. 842 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR.

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **29,886** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 26 Feb-04 March 2021. **13,137** persons returned voluntarily and **16,749** were deported. This represents a **43%** increase in the total number of returns from the previous week.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **163,219** individuals— more than double the rate of return in 2019 and 2020 through January and February. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,341 (4%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

COVID-19 Programming Update

IOM has been actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing emergency response actions through its Cross Border Return, Migration Health and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Units however funding will end for COVID-19 interventions on 28 February 2021.

IOM support is focused across 4 of WHO's Response Pillars including 1. Coordination; 2. Risk Communication-Community Engagement; 3. Surveillance/DTM; 4. Points of Entry. Activities include training for frontline health workers, deployment of staff to areas of need including health facilities, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support of PPE and other equipment, ambulance based referral services, distribution of MOPH-WHO IEC materials and community level awareness raising and sensitization efforts through health education sessions including within Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions in over 12,600 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **1,764** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **342** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**26** deportee) and Spin Boldak (**304** returnees and **12** deportees) borders. Returns are lower in the colder winter months.

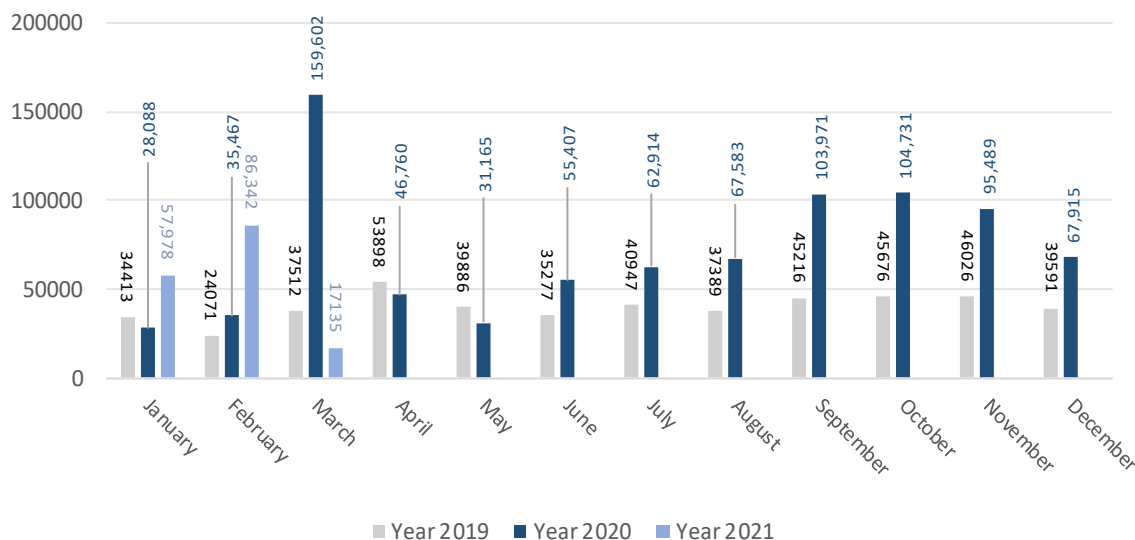
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

| Date | Iran | | | | Total Iran | Pakistan | | | | Total Pakistan | Overall Return |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| | Herat | | Nimroz | | | Torkham | | Kandahar | | | |
| | Spont | Deport | Spont | Deport | | Spont | Deport | Spont | Deport | | |
| 1-31 Jan 2021 | 20,293 | 12,099 | 10,343 | 15,243 | 57,978 | 22 | 58 | 520 | 47 | 647 | 58,625 |
| 1-18 Feb 2021 | 14,723 | 14,612 | 7,761 | 15,584 | 52,680 | 28 | 38 | 475 | 2 | 543 | 53,223 |
| 19-25 Feb 2021 | 5,194 | 6,050 | 1,938 | 7,729 | 20,911 | 47 | 14 | 144 | 27 | 232 | 21,143 |
| 26 Feb-4 March 2021 | 10,074 | 7,091 | 3,063 | 9,658 | 29,886 | 0 | 26 | 304 | 12 | 342 | 30,228 |
| Total | 50,284 | 39,852 | 23,105 | 48,214 | 159,861 | 97 | 136 | 1,443 | 88 | 1,764 | 163,219 |

Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021

| | Iran | | | | Total Iran | Pakistan | | | | Total Pakistan | Overall Assisted |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| | Herat | | Nimroz | | | Torkham | | Kandahar | | | |
| | Spont | Deport | Spont | Deport | | Spont | Deport | Spont | Deport | | |
| 1-31 Jan 2021 | 153 | 480 | 240 | 1,401 | 2,274 | 22 | 52 | 482 | 47 | 603 | 2,877 |
| 1-18 Feb 2021 | 107 | 1,436 | 176 | 1,539 | 3,258 | 28 | 32 | 433 | 0 | 493 | 3,751 |
| 19-25 Feb 2021 | 82 | 375 | 36 | 570 | 1,063 | 47 | 13 | 144 | 26 | 230 | 1,293 |
| 26 Feb-4 March 2021 | 147 | 565 | 13 | 616 | 1,341 | 0 | 21 | 290 | 12 | 323 | 1,664 |
| Total | 489 | 2,856 | 465 | 4,126 | 7,936 | 97 | 118 | 1,349 | 85 | 1,649 | 9,585 |

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran - 2019 - 2021



IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 9,585 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2021.



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